DeRuyter Reservoir 9 Element Plan

Public Information Meeting #3

August 29, 2023

Questions & Answers

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1. **Can you explain what the 1-year and 100-year storms are?**

   These storms represent a 'return period' or a statistical estimate of the average time between such events. The 100-year storm event indicates a probability of 1% that a storm of this magnitude will occur in a given year. The 1-year storm event indicates a probability of ~100% that a storm of this magnitude will occur in a given year.

2. **Can a lack of substantial water quality impairment reduce likelihood of receiving grant funding for water quality improvement projects?**

   Yes, theoretically water quality-based grant funds will prioritize waterbodies with known impairments; however, many of these funding resources also prioritize projects with approved 9 Element Plans. Therefore, the goal is to develop an approved 9 Element Plan to ensure the greatest probability of receiving funding assistance in the absence of major water quality impairment.

3. **In general, how much do the projects used for discussion cost (i.e., how much funding is required)?**

   Costs included in the current Draft 9 Element Plan were derived from the 2019 Stormwater Study Report completed for the Reservoir, and focus on streambank stabilization and riparian buffer development. These projects range in cost from $84,000 to $315,000. These prices will be subject to change as stakeholder preferences and resources are better understood, and a more finalized list of projects are established.

4. **How much money is available through grant resources?**

   This varies by year, as well as between funding resources. However, the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) may be used as an example due to it's applicability to the Reservoir's 9 Element Plan goals and projected projects. In 2023, $75 Million was available through the WQIP, with up to $1 Million available for individual projects. It should be noted that a local funding match up to a designated percentage is generally required with grant funds.

5. **Who will determine what projects to submit grant funding applications for?**

   The decision-making process would be a shared effort between stakeholders, however the 9 Element Plan could be utilized individually by stakeholders as needed when a stakeholder such as a municipality prioritizes a project and plans to be lead agency.

6. **Will this plan and proposed projects impact levels of weed growth?**

   Yes, but this effect may be two-fold. In general, reduction of phosphorus concentrations will reduce weed growth as less nutrients become available. However, with enhanced water quality often comes increased water clarity, which may in turn allow for similar, or increased, weed growth in shallow waters where sunlight can penetrate.

7. **How was a phosphorus concentration of 20 ug/L selected as the State standard for impaired waterbodies?**

   Crowdsourcing was conducted by the state to detail resident perceptions of water clarity at the waterbodies they live on and/or recreate at. These perceptions were cross-referenced with water quality data to determine what concentrations, in general, led to perceived impaired water quality.

8. **Did closing the gate at the south end of the Reservoir have a substantial impact on water quality?**

   CSLAP water quality data indicates that this did not impact water quality. It was further noted that this was not a voluntary change.

9. **Are municipalities currently involved in the planning process for the 9 Element Plan?**

   Yes, municipal outreach has been conducted. Municipalities have been, and will continue to be engaged in the development and decision-making process for the 9 Element Plan. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, Town Supervisors, local and county Departments of Transportation, Town Code Enforcement Offices, planning departments, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.